(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any specific budgetary provisions have been made to implement the action plan for the years 2005-06 and 2006-07; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) The recommendations of Prof. P. Rama Rao Committee were noted by the Standing Committee of IIT Council (SCIC). It was decided that all NTs would compile their comments on the recommendations in a cohesive form. The action items arising out of the recommendations of this report will be highlighted and brought forward for the consideration of SCIS. The compilation shall be done by the group of Directors.

(c) and (d) It is premature to earmark funds for the action plan, based on the P. Rama Rao Committee Report.

Basic Scientific research in Universities

2798. DR. K. KASTURIRANGAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether recommendations of Prof. M.M. Sharma Task Force on basic scientific research in the universities have been acted upon;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any budgetary provisions have been made for 2005-06 and 2006-07 for implementing the recommendations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (d) A Task Force under the Chairmanship of Prof. M.M. Sharma was constituted for strengthening basic research in Indian Universities. One of the recommendations of the Task Force *interalia* included earmarked allocation for improving scientific research in universities. The recommendations have been forwarded to the University Grants Commission for implementation. A proposal for enhanced plan allocation for this purpose, among others, has been sent to the Planning Commission.